

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on July 1, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 14-17 and 26 are amended, claims 1-13, and 27-32 are canceled, and claims 33-35 are added; as a result, claims 14-26, and 33-35 are now pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33-35 do not introduce any new subject matter and are intended to cover additional claimable subject matter fully supported by the originally filed specification.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305).

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), and further in view of Takehashi, (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,167).

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), and further in view of Brown, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,612).

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), and further in view of Kohler (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,300).

Claims 17-21 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), and further in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299).

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), further in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299), and further in view of Newman (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,668).

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No.

6,788,305), further in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299), and further in view of Takahashi (6,697,167).

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), further in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299), and further in view of Brown, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,612).

Claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299).

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030) in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299), and further in view of Newman (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,668).

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohga (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,305), in view of Krabbenhöft, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,030), and further in view of Drakopoulos, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,299).

Applicant does not admit that the Krabbenhöft reference and the Ohga reference are indeed prior art and reserves the right to swear behind them at a later date. Nonetheless, in the interest of advancing prosecution of the present application, Applicant has canceled claims 1-13 and has added independent claims 33-35. Applicant respectfully submits that the § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Independent claims 33-35 recite language indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. Specifically, Applicant has added independent claims 33-35 to include all of the elements of canceled independent claim 1 along with allowable subject matter language from each of canceled claims 2-13, respectively. Applicant submits that neither the Krabbenhöft reference nor the Ohga reference, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of independent claims 33-35. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33-35 now stand in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of those claims, as well as of the claims which depend therefrom.

Applicant has amended independent claim 26 to incorporate language regarding the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner in canceled

claim 27. Applicant respectfully submits that neither the Krabbenhöft reference nor the Ohga reference, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of claim 26, as amended. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection for independent claim 26 in view of the same. Additionally, as claim 26 now stands in condition for allowance, allowance of that claim is also respectfully requested.

Applicant has canceled claims 28-32, but reserves the right to reintroduce these claims in a continuation or divisional application at a later date.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-13 and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has incorporated language regarding the allowable subject matter of claims 2-13 into new independent claims 33-35, and the elements of independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-13 have been canceled. Claims 14-26 depend from claim 33. Applicant has also incorporated language regarding the allowable subject matter of claim 27 into independent claim 26.

For the reasons given above, Applicant believes that independent claims 26 and 33-35, as well as those claims which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Larry D. Baker at (360) 212-0769 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29th day of September, 2005.

Jeffery L. Cameron
Name

[Signature]
Signature

Respectfully Submitted,
Huanzhao Zeng

By his Representatives,
BROOKS & CAMERON, PLLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55403

By: [Signature]
Jeffery L. Cameron
Reg. No. 43,527

Date: 9/29/05